

Rannoch was somewhat more profitable and produced one of the very few *O. cruda* we saw, as well as several *Xylena vetusta* Hübn. Next morning, the Aviemore traps yielded one each of *O. populeti* and *Panolis flammea* Schiff., a few *Ectropis bistorta* Goeze, *A. flavicornis* and the usual *Orthosias*, etc.

Much of our time by day was spent in pinpointing promising willow bushes but on a return visit to Granish we again saw *E. versicolora* and found a cocoon of *Phragmatobia fuliginosa borealis* Staud. on the heather. That night, we tried willows to the north of the village and were pleased to note about twenty *O. populeti*, some of them worn, one *P. flammea*, five female *Chloroclysta miata* L., several *Lampropteryx suffumata* Schiff. and one *Anticlea badiata* Schiff. The lamps at Inshriach attracted four more *populeti*, three *nubeculosa* and the usual visitors. The static traps fared badly and apart from a male *E. versicolora* contained little of interest.

Thursday, 15th April, was our last day and after loading the car, a mammoth task, we departed for Struan where only one *C. cinctaria* was found and most of the *lapponaria* had vanished. Willowing that night at Rannoch yielded both sexes of *vetusta* and several *L. suffumata* including a female ab. *piceata* Steph. which was kept for eggs. A second *piceata*, this time a male, was taken from willows at Tummel Bridge in company with seven *O. gracilis* of the attractive local form. Although the lamps had been left nearby, apart from a male *Odontotia carmelita* Esp. and one *P. flammea*, they produced little of note.

We ceased operations at 1.30 a.m. and were home for lunch.

Notes and Observations

EUPROCTIS CHRYSORRHOEA HÜBN. (LEP. LYMANTRIIDAE)
LARVAE IN N.W. KENT.—A considerable but localised colony of these caterpillars was found at Dartford on 18th May 1971. More than a dozen apple and hawthorn trees and numerous small bushes, some completely defoliated by the half-grown larvae, were festooned with their nests. The infestation appears to be confined to both sides of a stretch of road on the chalk high ground East of the Darent valley. Visits to the Dartford and Stone marshes have failed to reveal colonies there, but a hawthorn alongside the same road in the vicinity of Darenth Wood contained two nests.

For the present century there are only two casual records of the moth for N.W. Kent, and none for the larva. This extension of range which will doubtless be temporary even in the absence of local council intervention, is interesting, for although *E. chrysorrhoea* is notorious for sudden increases in larval population and temporary territorial expansion in S.E. England, from as far back as 1800 there seems to be no record of colonies being observed further West than Gravesend on the Southern side of the Thames estuary.

It may be worth recording that in June 1970 at Dungeness the larvae were in extraordinary abundance and devastated the vegetation, mainly composed of willows, blackthorn, hawthorn and bramble, over a wide area. What was the state of the species in its other haunts in the country, I wonder?—B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

A SOUTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY IN DORSET: While preparing a member of Weymouth West Scout Troop for his Natural History badge, I heard that his grammar school friend, Robert Smith, had taken an unusual butterfly in a rough, sloping meadow bordering the Fleet, on 23rd August 1970.

I was able to borrow the specimen, which was a little damaged, but fairly well set in the same style as Smith's other set specimens. As I could not identify the insect, I took it to Mr Douglas E. Dodwell at Yeovil, who identified the butterfly as *Hypanartia lethe* Fabr.

I am informed by Mr T. G. Howarth of the British Museum (Natural History) that this species is widely distributed in Central and South America from Mexico to the Argentine, where the larvae have been recorded feeding on *Celtis spinosa* Spreng. and other *Celtis* species (Ulmaceae), also upon *Boehmeria caudata* Swarz.

He also tells me that they have in the museum a specimen presented by Mr R. L. E. Ford which was taken alive in Covent Garden market on 17th October, 1935.

How this second specimen of *lethe* reached South Dorset will probably remain a mystery. I know of no one in this area who imports larvae or pupae of this species, so it is unlikely to be an escapee.

I am greatly indebted to Mr Howarth and Mr Dodwell for the help they have given.—V. W. PHILPOTT, F.R.E.S., 122 Wyke Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

THE POSSIBLE OCCURRENCE OF ARGYNNIS CYDIPPE L. (LEP.) IN KINTYRE.—Whilst on holiday with my family in Scotland, we stopped on 18th August 1969 for lunch between Crinan and Tayvallich, very near the northernmost point of Loch Sween, and only about 50 yards from the Loch itself. I noted on the wing *Pararge aegeria* L., *Erebia aethiops* Esp., *Aglais urticae* L., *Vanessa atalanta* L., *Lycaena phlaeas* L. and one very battered fritillary. The last named was flying in a damp, marshy field, resting occasionally on thistle heads, and although not taken, was assumed to be *Argynnis cydippe* L.

However, reference to the provincial Atlas of Insects of the British Isles—Butterflies, reveals no record of *cydippe* in Scotland, a fact of which I was unaware at the time, and this would suggest that the insect was, in fact, *A. aglaia* L., even though this species also is not recorded for Kintyre. Nevertheless, I still feel certain that I saw *cydippe*, but clearly the record needs confirmation or otherwise, and anyone in the area this summer could make a useful contribution to the Atlas by